

Listing of Claims:

10/548314
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp (1) with upper inking, comprising a housing (2) in which a stamp unit (5) which is coupled with an actuating part (8) and includes stamp characters (7) is movably arranged and which has an insertion compartment (3) with at least one insertion opening (29, 30) for an ink pad container (4), said insertion compartment having an opening (25') at its lower side (25) facing the stamp unit for inking of the stamp characters (7), when the latter are in their upper, turned position, by contacting the ink pad (4') in said container (4), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein guiding and centering projections (26) are provided for the ink pad container (4) which are arranged on two opposite sides of the insertion compartment (3) in the direction of insertion.

2. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the guiding and centering projections (26) are formed by ledges extending in the direction of insertion.

3. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ledges are substantially rectangular, seen in front view.

4. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ wherein the ink pad container (4) has recesses (27) cooperating with the guiding and centering projections (26).

5. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the recesses (27) are provided on that rim of the ink pad container (4) which is the lower rim in the inserted state of the ink pad container (4).

6. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 4 ~~or 5, characterized in that~~ wherein the recesses (27) on their side which is the upper side in the inserted state of the ink pad container (4) are delimited by ledge projections (28) on the side walls (23) of the ink pad container (4).

7. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ wherein at least one resilient retention element (17, 18) is arranged in the insertion compartment (3) for resilient abutment on the ink pad container (4).

8. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) is arranged on the upper side of the compartment, located opposite the opening (25') provided on the lower side of the insertion compartment (3).

9. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7 ~~or 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) is designed as a snap-in element for snapping engagement on the ink pad container (4).

10. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the resilient retention element (17, 18) has an, e.g. knob-shaped snap-in projection (20).

11. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ink pad container (4), for instance in its bottom area which is upwardly arranged in its inserted state, includes a depression (21) for snapping engagement of the resilient retention element (17, 18).

12. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the depression (21) is formed by a groove extending in the insertion direction of the ink pad container (4).

13. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove-depression (21) is delimited on both ends by an end wall (17', 18').

14. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 7, ~~any one of claims 7 to 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein two resilient retention elements (17, 18) are arranged in successive alignment in the insertion direction of the ink pad container (4).

15. (currently amended)

A self-inking stamp according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the two resilient retention elements (17, 18) are tongue-shaped snap-in elements having a snap-in projection (20) on each one of their free ends that face away from each other.

16. (currently amended)

An ink pad container (4) to be used in a self-inking stamp (1) according to claim 1, ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~, comprising a bottom (22) and walls (23, 24) projecting away therefrom, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein lateral recesses (27) are provided on two opposite side walls (23) and cooperate with guiding and centering projections (26) in the insertion compartment (3).

17. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the recesses (27) are provided on the rim of the side walls (23) that faces away from the bottom (22).

18. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 16 ~~or 17~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the recesses (27), on their side which is the upper side in the inserted state of the ink pad container (4), are delimited by ledge projections (28) on the side walls (23) of the ink pad container (4).

19. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 16, ~~any one of claims 16 to 18, characterized in that~~ wherein the bottom (22) is designed with a depression provided for snapping engagement of a resilient retention element (17, 18) provided in the insertion compartment (3) of the self-inking stamp (1).

20. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the depression (21) is formed by a groove extending in the direction of insertion of the ink pad container (4).

21. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the groove-depression (21) is delimited on both ends by an end wall (17', 18').

22. (currently amended)

An ink pad container according to claim 19, ~~any one of claims 19 to 21, characterized in that~~ wherein the depression (21) is provided centrally in the bottom (22).